tables and flowers, and cases involving a policy decision are dealt with by the Committee.

(c) The details showing the number of meetings alongwith dates on which they were held are enclosed in statement.

Statement

Details showing the number of meetings held in 1993-94 *and* 1994-95

1993-94		1994-95	
Number of meetings	Date of meeting	Number of meetings	Date of meetings
4	5-5-93	6	25-4-94
	12-7-93		27-6-94
	11-10-93		6-9-94
	23-12-93		14-12-94
			2-3-95
			21-3-95

Export of seeds

4028. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government will review the existing cumbersome procedures in practice for peoole wishing to export seeds from India;

(b) whether it is a fact that from the date of application for export of seeds to clearance by his Ministry, it takes an everage of 90 days;

(c) if so, the reasons for such delays which harm farmers; and

(d) whether Government will examine this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) As per the existing Export-Import policy and procedures, export of seeds; except certain categories appearing in the Restricted List, is allowed without restriction.

(b) to (d) An application for export normally takes an average of 40-60 days for clearance since it requires seeking comments of all concerned agencies on relevant aspects. Efforts are made to decide the cases with in reasonable time.

Resolution to study the proposed anti-tobacco legislation

4029. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tobacco Development Council has unanimously passed a resolution asking for establishment of an Expert Committee to study the proposed anti-tobacco legislation; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for Agriculture Ministry not implementing a resolution in farmers interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) The Indian Tobacco Development Council in its meeting held on 2-6-94 recommended that the proposed legislation on ban on advertisement of tobacco and tobacco products be referred to an Expert Committee for a thorough re-examination of its provisions. The same has been examined. The legislation proposed by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has gone through the process of discussions with growers, traders and several

other tobacco sector representatives, hence Ministry has decided not to set up an Expert Committee in this Ministry.

Representation against anti-tobacco legislation by Members of Parliament

4030. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has received representations against anti-tobacco legislation from a large number of Members of Parliament voicing farmers' fears of banning of their crop of tobacco;

(b) if so, the details of such representations; and

(c) how Government propose to reassure farmers that their interest is uppermost in the policy formulation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) There are representations from Members of Parliament against the proposed legislation of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for discouraging use of Tobacco products; and requests for setting up an Expert Committee to study the impact of legislation on tobacco farmers.

(c) The proposed Tobacco legislation by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare aims at curbing sale|consumption of tobacco in specific public places and ban tobacco advertisement keeping in view the likely health hazards to tobacco consumers. It does not intend to ban tobacco farming.

Quantum of diesel, fertilizers and machinery for agriculture

4031. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of diesel, fertilizers and machinery inputs for agriculture in country in comparison to other countries;

(b) the restriction on import of tractors from other countries;

(c) the details of protection provided to the industrial sector in the country at the cost of farmers; and

(d) measures to rectify the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) The quantum of fertilizer and machinery inputs for agriculture in the country and in some of the developed and the developing countries has been given in a statement annexed. (*See* below). Information on consumption of diesel in agriculture sector is not maintained by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.

(b) The import of tractors is restricted in terms of the Export nd Import Policy 1992—97.

(c) and (d) The price of diesel and fertilizers sold in the country is substantially subsidised. There is no requirement of industrial licence for manufacture of fertilizers, tractors and other agricultural machines. Supply of these items is assured and there is no protection to the industrial sector at the cost of the farmers.